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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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	SECRET		25X1A
COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
SUBJECT	Passenger Airplane Crash near Krakow	DATE DISTR.	2 4 M ay 1954 1
DATE OF INFO.	25X1A	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	633391
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- 1. On 19 March 1954 a twin-engined passenger airplane, flying from Warsaw to Krakow, made a forced landing approximately 45 kilometers before reaching Krakow. The forced landing was caused by a malfunction of the plane's radio communications equipment. The pilot landed at what he believed to be an airdrome, but the plane crashed into a rock. It did not, however, catch fire.
- 2. The plane had 21 passengers, all of whomwere highly regarded actors on their way to Krakow to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the famous actor Solski. Thirteen passengers were seriously wounded, and eight passengers were killed. Among those killed was Leon Sziler, Director of the National Theater in Warsaw.
- 3. The site of the plane crash was approximately 10 kilometers from the nearest town. Although one passenger did manage to reach the nearest police station, it had no transportation facilities, and the wounded had to wait six hours before receiving first aid. The Krakow airfield made no inquiries when the plane failed to arrive on schedule.
- 4. Although many articles about the death of Leon Sziler have appeared in the newspapers, not one has mentioned that Sziler was killed in an airplane accident.
- 5. The flight engineer of the crashed plane was Zimmerman (fnu), a resident of Okecie, Warsaw.

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